

1 State of Arkansas
2 80th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1995
4 By: Senator Boozman

A Bill

SENATE BILL 720

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 "AN ACT TO PROVIDE A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR PARENTS WHOSE
9 CHILDREN ARE ENROLLED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND FOR OTHER
10 PURPOSES."

Subtitle

13 "TO PROVIDE A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR PARENTS
14 WHOSE CHILDREN ARE ENROLLED IN PUBLIC
15 SCHOOLS."

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

19 SECTION 1. (a) Recognizing the rights of parents, *guardians, or*
20 *persons standing in loco parentis* to direct the upbringing and education of
21 their children, the Eightieth General Assembly of the State of Arkansas
22 hereby directs that no later than September 1, 1996, the board of directors
23 of each local school district, *after holding public hearings and accepting*
24 *comments and suggestions from parents, guardians, and persons standing in*
25 *loco parentis and teachers*, shall adopt and implement policies to ensure that
26 parents, *guardians, and persons standing in loco parentis* have rights in
27 regard to their children who are enrolled in district schools. Such policies
28 shall include, but not be limited to the following:

29 (1) Procedures whereby parents, *guardians, or persons standing*
30 *in loco parentis* can review instructional materials;

31 (2) Access to information about the curriculum, including
32 requirements for academic advancement and high school graduation, *and*
33 *instructional materials*;

34 (3) *Procedures whereby no assessment or testing procedure shall*
35 *test or assess student religious beliefs*;

1 (4) Access to any *available and existing* written material
2 produced by their children as a part of any course of study or school
3 activity, including tests *but excluding state-mandated tests*;

4 (5) Access to all materials in the school library *not protected*
5 *by state or federal laws*;

6 (6) Access to all school records pertaining to their children
7 *not protected by state or federal laws*.

8 (b)(1) The board of directors of each local school district shall
9 notify the public as to the existence of the policies adopted and implemented
10 under this act and any subsequent changes.

11 (2) A copy of the policies shall be filed at the administrative
12 offices of the local school district and shall be available for public
13 inspection.

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15 SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent
16 nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas
17 Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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19 SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
20 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
21 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
22 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
23 act are declared to be severable.

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25 SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
26 hereby repealed.

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/s/Boozman

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As Engrossed: 3/17/95 3/30/95 4/3/95

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